

WASSCE / WAEC GHANAIAN LANGUAGES SYLLABUS

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1. PREAMBLE

The Ghanaian Language syllabus is based on the Teaching Syllabus which seeks to equip students with knowledge and skills to communicate effectively, appreciate cultures and values of the society and integrate smoothly into speech/language community. The syllabus is thus meant to examine candidates' communicative competence and ability to appreciate their cultural environment for peaceful co-existence and national development.

2. AIMS

The syllabus is designed to encourage students to improve their reasoning skills, and improve their ability to contribute to the solution of the problems of a dynamic society. Aspects to be examined consist of Phonology, Reading Comprehension, Writing, Literature and Customs and Institutions of the various Ghanaian ethnic groups and their languages.

3. ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVES

Language

Candidates will be tested on their ability to

- (1) understand, arrange and present facts, ideas and opinions in a coherent manner.
- (2) evaluate information in reading material and select what is relevant to specific purposes.
- (3) articulate, experience and express what is felt and what is imagined.
- (4) recognize implicit meaning and attitudes.
- (5) recognize the sound and structural patterns of the language.

Literature

Candidates will be tested on their ability to:

- (1) Understand literary texts and have a deeper meaning of themes, characterization and attitudes.
- (2) Recognize and appreciate ways in which authors/performers use language

to achieve their effects (e.g. diction, syntax, imagery, plot, etc.)

- (3) Communicate a sensitive and personal response to what is read.

4. SCHEME OF EXAMINATION

There will be **two** papers: Papers 1 and 2, **both** of which must be taken.

PAPER 1: Language Skill Development (3 hours)

This paper will consist of **four** sections: A, B, C and D and will carry 120 marks.

SECTION A: Composition 40 (marks)

Four topics for composition will be set and candidates will be required to write an essay of about **450** to **500** words on **one** of them for 40 marks. The following types of writing will be tested:

Narrative

Descriptive (Instructions/Directions/Processes)

Argument Discussion Speech writing

Letter writing

Some of the topics could be selected from unit three of Year 4 of the Teaching syllabus.

Topics for this section may include what candidates have covered under Customs and Institutions and candidates' essays will be expected to reflect the knowledge they have acquired in this area.

Candidates will be expected to display maturity in their use of language (e.g. figures of speech, choice of words, etc.) and their organization of facts and ideas.

SECTION B: Translation 20 (marks)

A prose passage of between 150 and 200 words will be set in English for translation into the chosen Ghanaian Language. Passages will be set to cover various registers and the types of writing will include:

Narrative, Descriptive, Explanation of ideas, Speeches, Directions, Instructions etc. Some of the topics could be selected from unit three of Year 4 of the Teaching syllabus.

The section shall carry 20 marks.

SECTION C: Comprehension 20 (marks)

A prose passage or verse of about 300 to 350 words will be set. **Ten** questions will be set to cover the following areas: Content, Vocabulary/Idioms, Figures of speech, Shades of meaning, Inference, Extrapolation, Summary (Title/Main points, etc.) Candidates will be required to answer all the questions for 20 marks.

Passages for comprehension could be selected based on some of these topics recommended in unit three of Year 4 of the Teaching syllabus.

SECTION D: LANGUAGE

In this section items will be set to cover phonology, and syntax.

The section shall carry 40 marks.

N.B.

A detailed syllabus for Section D appears at the end of this syllabus.

PAPER 2 - (2½ hours)

This paper will consist of two sections: A and B

SECTION A: Oral Literature/Customs & Institutions 20 (marks)

Two questions will be set and candidates will be expected to answer only **one** of them for 20 marks. This section will test candidates' knowledge of the following:

Marriage and divorce

Taboos and oaths

Naming, puberty and initiation rites

Chieftaincy and Traditional Administration

Traditional judicial procedure

Proverbs

Dirges

Riddles

Puzzles

Historical narratives

Folktales

Lyrics

Lullabies

Libation texts

Drum/Xylophone/Horn texts

Occupational songs

War songs

Play songs

Candidates' work at this level should show in-depth knowledge and analysis of the various aspects of oral literature/customs and institutions.

SECTION B: Written Literature

This section will be divided into **three** parts: I, II and III.
Each part shall carry 20 marks.

Part I: Prose

One set book will be prescribed for detailed study for three years. **Two** questions will be set on the book and candidates will be required to study and answer **one** of the questions.

Part II: Drama

One set book will be prescribed for detailed study for three years. **Two** questions will be set on the book and candidates will be required to study and answer **one** of the questions.

Part III: Poetry

One set book will be prescribed for detailed study for three years. **Two** questions will be set on the book and candidates will be required to study and answer **one** of the questions.

NB:

This paper will test candidates' knowledge of theme, incident, plot, context, characterization, appreciation, stylistic devices, etc.

5. DETAILED SYLLABUS FOR LANGUAGE

I. Phonology

- (a) Vowels - Length, Nasalization, Assimilation, Elision, Diphthongs/Vowel sequence/ Vowel Harmony
- (b) Consonants - Assimilation, Mutation, Consonant gemination (where applicable);Secondary Articulation e.g.Labialization, Palatalization
- (c) Tone - Level, Carriers,Tonal Structure (Intonation),
 Lexical and grammatical use of tones.
- (d) Syllable - Types and Structure

II Syntax

- (a) Sentences:
 - (i) Types

- (ii) Functions
 - (iii) Structure
- (b) Clauses:
- (i) Types
 - (ii) Functions
 - (iii) Structure
- (c) Phrases:
- (i) Types
 - (ii) Functions
 - (iii) Structure
- (a) Word Classes
- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| (i) Nouns | (vi) Conjunctions |
| (ii) Verbs | (vii) Postposition |
| (iii) Adverbs | (viii) Determiners |
| (iv) Adjectives | (ix) Particles |
| (v) Pronouns | (x) Auxilliaries |
- (b) Word Formation
- (c) Direct/Indirect Speech
- (d) Agreement (concord)

6. **ALLOCATION OF MARKS**

PAPER 1

SECTION A - Essay	-	40 marks
SECTION B - Translation	-	20 marks
SECTION C - Comprehension	-	20 marks
SECTION D - Language Structure		<u>40 marks</u>
(a) Phonology	- 20	<u>120 marks</u>
(b) Syntax	- 20	

PAPER 2

SECTION - Oral Literature/Customs & Institutions 20 marks

SECTION B - Written Literature/Literary Appreciation

Part I (Prose)	-	20 marks
Part II (Drama)	-	20 marks
Part III (Poetry)	-	<u>20 marks</u>

80 marks

Total Paper 1 & 2 = 200 marks